

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** An absorbent article which is provided with a liquid permeable surface sheet, a liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet and a liquid-retaining absorbent is formed substantially oblong,

wherein said absorbent article is provided on longitudinal opposite sides thereof with a pair of right and left, elastic member-carrying three-dimensional guards,

wherein said three-dimensional guards each has a skin-contacting surface portion formed by folding back a side on a free side ~~towards the~~ towards an outer side of said absorbent article, and said folded back side forms a folded portion;

wherein a first set of elastic members are disposed and fixed to said skin-contacting surface portion and a second set of elastic members are disposed and fixed to an approximately widthwise central portion of a raised portion, wherein said raised portion is located between said skin-contacting surface portion and a base end of said three-dimensional guard;

said raised portion is disposed ~~toward the~~ toward an inner side of the diaper;

said elastic ~~member~~ members in the said second set in the raised portion is fixed between two sheet materials, wherein said two sheet materials form the three-dimensional ~~guard~~; and guard;

~~a folded~~ said folded back portion is located between the skin-contacting surface portion and said raised portion; and

said skin-contacting surface portion is located more on a free end side than the folded back portion, and the region of the guard widthwise ranging from the folded back portion to the free end forms the skin-contacting surface portion.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a total width of said elastic member disposed on said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a total width of said elastic member disposed on said raised portion.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a ratio ( $W1/W2$ ) between a width  $W1$  of said skin-contacting surface portion and a width  $W2$  of said raised portion is 0.1 to 1.0.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a stress of said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a stress of said raised portion.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein a leg portion has no leg gather, and when said raised portion is bisected in the width direction into a

lower half portion and an upper half portion, a stress of said lower half portion is larger than a stress of said upper half portion.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said skin-contacting surface portion is folded back along said elastic member at a part of the location of said elastic member nearest to said raised portion.

7. **(Previously Presented)** An absorbent article comprising:  
a liquid permeable surface sheet;  
a liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet; and  
a liquid-retaining absorbent interposed between said liquid permeable surface sheet and said liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet;

wherein said absorbent article is substantially oblong and comprising a pair of right and left, elastic member-carrying three-dimensional guards located on longitudinal opposite sides thereof;

wherein each of said three-dimensional guards has a skin-contacting surface portion formed by folding back a side on a free side towards the outer side of said absorbent article; and

said elastic members are respectively disposed and fixed to each of said portions  
(i) and (ii):

(i) said skin-contacting surface portion; and

(ii) an approximately widthwise central portion of a raised portion, wherein said raised portion is located between said skin-contacting surface portion and a base end of said three-dimensional guard;

wherein the elastic members in the skin-contacting surface portion of the three-dimensional guard are disposed at a smaller interval relative to the elastic members in the raised portion.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 7, wherein a total width of said elastic members disposed on said skin-contacting surface portion is larger than a total width of said elastic members disposed on said raised portion.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 7, said absorbent article further comprising a waist three-dimensional guard having elastic members disposed on longitudinal opposite end portions.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said folded back portion comprises an elastic member that is located between the skin-contacting surface portion and the raised portion.

11. **(New)** An absorbent article which is provided with a liquid permeable surface sheet, a liquid impermeable leakage-prevention sheet and a liquid-retaining absorbent is formed substantially oblong,

wherein said absorbent article is provided on longitudinal opposite sides thereof with a pair of right and left, elastic member-carrying three-dimensional guards,

wherein said three-dimensional guards each has a skin-contacting surface portion formed by folding back a side on a free side towards an outer side of said absorbent article;

wherein a first set of elastic members are disposed and fixed to said skin-contacting surface portion and a second set of elastic members are disposed and fixed to an approximately widthwise central portion of a raised portion, wherein said raised portion is located between said skin-contacting surface portion and a base end of said three-dimensional guard;

said raised portion is disposed toward an inner side of the diaper;

said elastic members in the said second set in the raised portion is fixed between two sheet materials, wherein said two sheet materials form the three-dimensional guard; and

a folded back portion is located between the skin-contacting surface portion and said raised portion;

wherein the skin-contacting surface portion is located more on a free end side than the folded back portion, and the region of the guard widthwise ranging from the folded back portion to the free end forms the skin-contacting surface portion.